

Guidance for Posting Signs at Biosolids Sites

Introduction

[Chapter 173-308 WAC](#) (the biosolids rule) requires signs to be posted at biosolids application sites and proposed application sites in many instances. The biosolids rule contains some requirements for sign content and the location of signs, but it is not very specific. This document provides additional guidance and examples of signs.

“Informational”, “No Trespassing”, and “Public Notice” Signs

“Informational” or “No Trespassing” signs must be posted at all sites where Class B biosolids have been applied. Ecology prefers that Informational signs be posted at sites, but the biosolids rule allows “No Trespassing” signs to be substituted if approved by Ecology. There are many situations where No Trespassing signs are appropriate and have been approved.

“Public Notice” signs must be posted at sites where nonexceptional quality biosolids are proposed to be applied for the first time. Public Notice signs may also be required when a public meeting or a public hearing is being held. In both cases, newspaper notice may also be required.

Guidance for Informational and Public Notice Signs

- Lettering for sign titles should be bold, upper case, and approximately 1” high.
- Lettering other than the title should be approximately ¼” high.
- Print on 8.5” x 14” or larger poster board or similar material.
- Use landscape orientation.
- Construct the signs with durable material such as laminated poster board with a plywood backing.
- Place the signs at least every ½ mile around the perimeter of the site and at all significant access points. You may be required to post at more frequent intervals.
- Place the signs 4 - 6 feet above the ground surface where they are easily approached and read. It may be necessary to place mounting posts in some locations.
- You must maintain the signs during the entire notice period.
 - For Informational signs this ranges from 30 days up to 1 year.
 - For Public Notice signs this is for the duration of the public notice period (at least 30 days and often longer).
- For Informational signs you must include the minimum content defined by WAC 173-308-210(5)(a)(x) and WAC 173-308-270(4)(k).
- Include a title such as, “BIOSOLIDS APPLICATION SITE” for Informational signs and “PUBLIC NOTICE” for Public Notice signs.
- Include a statement that it is a violation of the law to remove the sign during the time access is restricted or public notice is occurring.
- Important: Obtain approval of sign content and design from Ecology before printing or posting.

There is flexibility in the content and design of signs so they can be adapted to specific situations. If you have questions, contact your Regional Biosolids Coordinator (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/biosolids/contacts.html>).

The following two pages contain examples of an Informational sign posted at a biosolids application site and a Public Notice sign posted at a proposed application site.

BIOSOLIDS APPLICATION SITE

Biosolids City applied Class B Biosolids to this site as a soil amendment. Biosolids are the highly treated, primarily organic by-product resulting from the treatment of municipal wastewater. Biosolids City’s biosolids are produced at our wastewater treatment facility located at 123 Treatment Plant Road, Biosolids City, WA 99999. Biosolids City’s biosolids meet all of the strict quality standards prescribed in Chapter 173-308 WAC (Biosolids Management). Biosolids City’s application program is managed in accordance with the General Permit for Biosolids Management and Biosolids City’s Site Specific Land Application Plan.

Contacts for information about this project are:

Biosolids City Biosolids Manager 123 Treatment Plant Road Biosolids City, WA 99999 253-123-4567	Department of Ecology Biosolids Regulator 123 Ecology Road Regulation City, WA 99999 360-123-4567	Biosolids County Health Department Delegated Biosolids Regulator 123 Health Department Road Regulation City, WA 99999 425-123-4567
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Harvesting plant material from this site is not allowed without permission from Biosolids City.

Access to this site is restricted to persons involved in the project and regulatory personnel.

It is a violation of law for any person to remove this sign during the period when access is restricted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Biosolids City submitted an application to the Department of Ecology to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Biosolids Management to apply biosolids to this site. Our permit application includes a Site Specific Land Application Plan that describes how biosolids would be managed at this site. Our permit application also includes a General Land Application Plan that describes how future application sites will be identified and managed.

Biosolids City issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) on May 23, 2012, for this proposal after review of a completed Environmental Checklist and other documents. Copies of the DNS and other documents are available from the SEPA contact listed below. To comment on the DNS, you must send written comments to the SEPA contact listed below by June 30, 2012.

To comment on this proposal or to request a public hearing or meeting, you must send written comments or requests to the Department of Ecology contact listed below by June 30, 2012.

If you wish to be included on an interested parties list to receive notification of activities relating to this project, please notify, in writing, the Biosolids City contact listed below. Biosolids City will provide written confirmation by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each interested person or organization that their name has been placed on the list.

Contacts for questions, comments, or requests:

Biosolids City	Department of Ecology	Biosolids County Health Department	SEPA
Biosolids Manager 123 Treatment Plant Road Biosolids City, WA 99999 253-123-4567	Biosolids Regulator 123 Ecology Road Regulation City, WA 99999 360-123-4567	Delegated Biosolids Regulator 123 Health Department Road Regulation City, WA 99999 425-123-4567	SEPA Official 123 SEPA Office Road Biosolids City, WA 99999 206-123-4567

It is a violation of law for any person to remove this sign during the public notice period.